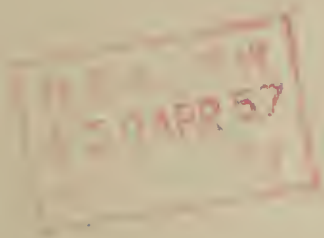


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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
OF THE
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR
1955.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955.

The Chairman of the Council (Councillor W. H. Rowe).

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. W. Holman.

Councillors: N. Barnes

J. B. Barnett

W. J. Cuddy

W. N. Harvey

J. Oats

J. C. Oats

James Rowe

W. T. Warren

A. Warren

K. R. Woolcock

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health

W. K. DUNSCOMBE, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

W. G. S. KNEEBONE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
M.R.I.P.H. & H.



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To the Chairman and Members of
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

As you are aware I took up my appointment as Medical Officer of Health to your Authority in March 1956, and therefore, in introducing this Annual Report for 1955 on behalf of Dr. Dunscombe, I would like to thank Mr. Kneebone for recording the information following this pre-amble.

It should be noted that once again there were no maternal deaths in the District, but I refrain from any further comment on the statistical information for 1955 as the figures are relatively small, and it is very easy to draw false conclusions from them. I am, however, considering the possibility of comparing our local figures with those of previous years in the next Annual Report, to see if anything can be deduced from them.

As noted in the previous Report respiratory tuberculosis remains a relatively important cause of death; at the same time the number of cases of tuberculosis on the register rose, as notifications continued to come in at a relatively high rate for the size of the population. (Appendix B)

Of the notifiable diseases other than tuberculosis only Measles was reported (Appendix A) but in view of the conditions existing in the area, so clearly described by Mr. Kneebone later in this Report, there must be a very large element of luck in this situation. A trend which needs careful watching in years to come is the fall in the number of children receiving primary immunisation against diphtheria (Appendix A). The drop of 21 from the figure of 79 in 1954 could rapidly produce a non-immune child population if this were to continue.

In reading Mr. Kneebone's report, while I am impressed by the progress made in water and housing schemes, I cannot but be concerned by the continuation of water supplies open to contamination, and by the continued discharge of crude sewage into a stream via a series of disused mine workings at the Boscan outfall.

With the many duties which Mr. Kneebone has to undertake single-handed it is the more noteworthy that he managed to maintain a 100% meat inspection during the year, and I think he should be congratulated on this.

D. L. JOHNSON

Medical Officer of Health

ST. JUST.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

1955.

1.	Area in Acres	7,761
2.	Estimated Population.. .. .	4,020
3.	Rateable Value	£12,663 (March 56)
4.	Product of 1d. Rate	£50.1s.9d. (March 56)
5.	Inhabited houses	1,420
6.	Requisitioned houses.. .. .	19
7.	Houses built or building since 1945.. .. .	
	Council	21
	Private	11
8.	Families on waiting list for houses.. .. .	75

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	20 Male	28 Female	48 Total
	Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor.. ..		1.14
	Birth rate per 1,000 population:		
	St. Just		13.6
	England and Wales		15.0
<u>Still Births.</u>	1 Male	Nil Female	1 Total
	Still birth rate per 1,000 all births:		
	St. Just		20.4
	England and Wales		23.2
<u>Deaths.</u>	23 Male	25 Female	48 Total
	Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor. ..		0.81
	Death rate per 1,000 population:		
	St. Just		9.6
	England and Wales		11.7
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year.</u>			
	1 Male	1 Female	2 Total
	Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births:		
	St. Just		41.7
	England and Wales		28.4
Maternal deaths.. .. .			Nil.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory. 	3	1	4
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach 	1	-	1
- Uterus 	-	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	-	2	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia. 	-	1	1
Diabetes 	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System 	-	3	3
Coronary Disease, Angina 	4	2	6
Other Heart Disease 	6	6	12
Other Circulatory Disease.. 	1	3	4
Pneumonia 	-	1	1
Bronchitis.. 	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System. 	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis 	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate 	1	-	1
Congenital malformations 	-	1	1
Other Defined and ill-Defined Diseases 	2	1	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents 	1	-	1
All other Accidents 	2	1	3
	<u>23</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>48</u>

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease 	18
Other Circulatory Disease.. 	4
Cancer. 	4
Tuberculosis (Respiratory). 	4

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year ending December, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Just Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the District.

During the year under review varying degrees of progress were made in the preparation of the following Schemes:-

- (a) The Pendeen - Boscaswell Water Scheme.
- (b) The St. Just Town - Boscean - Tregeseal Sewerage Scheme.

The Trewellard Water Supply Improvement Scheme was completed.

The Lower Boscaswell Housing Scheme site works were well under way together with house foundation construction by the end of the year under review.

Meat Inspection duties in three Slaughterhouses continued to contribute to the heavy burden of duties borne by the department. Much overtime had to be worked in order to effect one hundred per cent inspection in the three licensed Slaughterhouses.

Rodent Control work continued and the Maintenance Treatment of sewers and refuse tips was carried out.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

As Water Engineer I wish to make the following report:-

There are three separate piped supplies within the Urban District viz:-
St. Just Churchtown, Trewellard and Boscaswell.

The consumers, however, in St. Just Churchtown and Boscaswell cannot rely on wholesome supplies, while at Trewellard the supply is inadequate in the summer months of July and August following a dry winter.

More than one third of the total population have to draw their water supply from wells or "chutes", in many cases open to gross pollution, untreated and a considerable distance from their houses.

The district has supplies of water which are inadequate and prone to pollution; it is apparent that there is a great need for an increased and wholesome water supply. We still look to the Drift Scheme to meet this most urgent need.

A 6,000 gallon elevated service tank was erected at Wheal Bal Hill, Trewellard and brought into service. The improvement in the supply was marked by its adequacy throughout the year. The days of manual pumping at long last came to an end.

A little progress was made on the legal problems involved in reaching an Agreement with the owners of the Water rights of Carn View Terrace Well, but again unfortunately, a solution was not achieved by the end of the year. It is hoped that when the time comes to write my report for 1956, I shall be able to make more favourable comment on the actual installation of the Pendeen - Boscaswell Section of the Drift Scheme.

No. of houses =	(a) On mains supply.. ..	692
	(b) With standpipe supply.	140
	(c) Without supply	621

172 yards of new 3" water main were laid at Trewellard in connection with the Improvement Scheme and 335 yards were laid at the Boscaswell new Housing Estate.

The renewal of service pipes continued as the need arose.

SEWERAGE.

Sewage disposal is principally by sea outfalls, one at Pen Nanven and one at Trewellard Lawn. The former serves approximately one half of St. Just Churchtown while the latter serves, Trewellard, Pendeen and Boscaswell Village.

There is a small septic tank at Higher Bojewyan.

The Boscean outfall taking sewage from the eastern half of the Churchtown and consisting of a series of disused mine workings is over-burdened and a statutory nuisance. Here crude sewage flows into the Nancherrow Stream.

Periodic heavy rainfall still surcharged the Churchtown sewers, causing damage through flooding to the personal effects of certain dwellinghouse occupiers.

Seven years have now passed since the Council conceived the scheme to abate the nuisance at the Boscean outfall. Since last year when the Council approved the Scheme for Tregeseal and relief sewers for St. Just Churchtown, slow progress has been made in finalising the preparatory measures so that Tenders could be invited for the work. The delay is no doubt increasing year by year the capital and running costs of the project.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Inspections.

<u>General Sanitation</u>	Water Supply	61
	Drainage	24
	Tents, Vans and Sheds.	1
	Complaints.. .. .	70
	Sewage outfalls.. .. .	5
<u>Housing</u>	Verminous Conditions.. .. .	2
	Inspected for housing defects ..	18
<u>Miscellaneous Inspections</u>	Cinema etc.	1
	Public Convenience	33
	Refuse Tips.	14
	Re Rat Destruction	11
	Visits to Council Houses	28
	District Inspection	10

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	Roof repaired	2
	Chimneys repaired	4
	Walls repaired	7
	Windows repaired.	8
	Houses provided with sinks. ..	2
	Defective ceilings repaired ..	1
	Houses provided with Bathrooms..	5
	Defective W.C's repaired	2
	Houses provided with W.C's. ..	9
	Drains repaired or reconstructed	4
	Houses provided with drainage ..	12
	Choked drains cleansed	4
	Cesspits cleansed	5
	Houses cleansed.. .. .	2
<u>Sewers</u>	Sewers cleansed or repaired ..	36
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	Statutory Notices issued	1
	Preliminary Notices served. ..	5

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Notices	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	5	5	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	15	4	-	-
(111) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	Nil.	Nil.	-	-
TOTAL	20	9	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instructed
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's Operator is part-time only, but survey of agricultural premises in accordance with the Act, was again undertaken in addition to maintenance treatments of the District's sewers and refuse disposal tip.

HOUSING.

A good start was made on work of erection of 36 houses and 8 flats at Lower Boscawell. It is to be hoped that the average of 2 new Council Houses per year since 1945 will now be greatly increased within the next few years. As private enterprise does not seem to care to shoulder, in part at least, the responsibility of providing decent, modern homes in an area saturated with substandard ones then the population has no alternative but to look to the Local Authority to provide the necessary accommodation so urgently needed.

Housing work also included the maintenance of property in as reasonable a condition as possible.

3 acres of land at Carn Bosavern, St. Just, more than 2 acres of land at Trewellard, and space for a further 20 dwellings at Lower Boscawell Site now await development.

The number of houses owned by the Council is 39.

A Preliminary Survey of unfit dwellings in the District was carried out and an estimate of the total number was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. On the Council's request, the Minister approved 120 unfit dwellings to be demolished in ten years instead of five. Regarding the employment of an additional Sanitary Inspector to assist in housing work, the Council resolved, whilst appreciating the onerous nature of my duties, that I must endeavour to carry out my duties as well as possible under the circumstances, giving priority to those most essential.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

510 visits were made to Meat and other Food Shops including Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses. In connection with the inspection of food the following meat and other food stuffs were condemned:-

	T.	C.	lbs.
Beef	5	14	79
Canned Meat. .. .	-	-	102
Canned Vegetables .. .	-	-	13
Canned Fruit .. .	-	-	40
Canned Milk .. .	-	-	3
TOTAL.....	5	16	13

Unsound foods, other than beef, were disposed of by burying at the Council's Tip.

THREE SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

1955 - SUMMARY.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known)	212	321	7	36	543	Nil
Number inspected	212	321	7	36	543	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	23	53	Nil	1	31	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.8%	16.8%	Nil	2.8%	5.7%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	4	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	30	63	Nil	Nil	19	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	16%	21.2%	Nil	Nil	3.5%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total number of visits to Slaughterhouses for purpose of Meat Inspection .. 485

Adulteration, Sampling etc.

The County Council is responsible for carrying out duties with regard to sampling for adulteration of food stuffs and I am indebted to Mr. H. A. Rundle, Divisional Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, for the following report:-

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Details of samples of food stuffs procured in 1955 in
St. Just Urban District.

<u>Article Sampled.</u>	<u>Number Taken</u>	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Adulterated.</u>
Milk	19	16	3
Orange Squash	2	2	
Malt Vinegar	1	1	
Butter	1	1	
Lemon Curd	1	1	
Sterilised Cream	1	1	
Stoneless Plum Jam	1	1	
Table Jelly	1	1	
French Coffee	1	1	
Lemon Squash	1	1	

The three adulterated samples of milk were all from the same producer and resulted in a caution being given for the offence. Repeat samples were taken at a later date and it was found that the milk was of good quality with both fat and solids-not-fat well above the required standard. It is proposed taking further samples from this source at more frequent intervals. None of the other samples taken calls for adverse comment.

LICENSED HOUSES.

The sanitary accommodation of these premises was kept under supervision and no complaints regarding their cleanliness were received.

CINEMA AND MUSIC HALLS.

These places for Public Entertainment were inspected. Reports were made to the Licensing Authority when necessary.

CAMPING SITES.

There are two licensed camping sites in the area.

Neither gave any cause for complaint during the year.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE.

There is only one Public Convenience in the District. This was cleansed daily and gave little cause for complaint.

Income.

<u>1951 - 52.</u>	<u>1952 - 53.</u>	<u>1953 - 54.</u>	<u>1954 - 55.</u>	<u>1955 - 56.</u>
£17:14:8:	£19:3:2:	£19:13:7:	£20:11:7:	£31:4:2:

The revenue received for the year ending 31st March 1956, was £31: 4: 2:, more than 50% increase over the previous year and the highest income yet recorded.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(1st April 1954 - 31st March 1955).

During the year under review a weekly collection of house refuse was carried out over the whole District. A weekly collection of Nightsoil was carried out where necessary throughout the District.

Refuse was disposed on one tip at Balleswidden, St. Just.

But few complaints were received concerning refuse collection and none concerning tipping.

I do not anticipate more than 5 years life for the present disposal site where dumping and supervision costs are almost negligible. When a new site is obtained for disposal there is little doubt that the annual cost of tipping will be increased enormously compared with present costs.

The collection team consisted of 3 males using one 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam Lorry.

The total cost of collection was:-

Net cost of Collection (Refuse & Nightsoil)	..	£1,523:	1:	9d.
Net cost of Tipping Refuse		£	5:	0: 0d.
TOTAL COST.....		£1,528:	1:	9d.

601 loads of refuse were disposed of at the Tip making a total weight of 1,067 Tons collected.

Street Sweeping.

Streets in the St. Just Churchtown only were cleansed by a part-time Sweeper. The net cost of Street Sweeping was £118: 2: 2d.

I again appeal to the public to make greater use of the street litter bins provided at various points throughout the district. Clean and tidy streets can only be kept as such at all times by the public rather than by the Local Authority Street Sweeper.

MORTUARY FACILITIES.

There is one Mortuary provided in St. Just Churchtown. These premises were used also on occasions by the neighbouring rural Authority.

EMPTYING OF CESSPOOLS.

When the need arose, privately owned cesspools etc. and those for which the Council were responsible, were emptied by a Cesspool Emptyer hired from the neighbouring Authority.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the support received from the Council during the year also to record my thanks to the staff for their loyalty, and devotion to their work.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. STUART KNEEBONE

Sanitary Inspector

APPENDIX A

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(Corrected Notifications).

1955.

DISEASE	PENZANCE	ST. IVES	ST. JUST	WEST PENWITH
Scarlet Fever	5	1	-	11
Whooping Cough	-	3	-	1
Measles	387	11	10	150
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis				
- Respiratory	14	6	7	11
- Other	3	1	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	6
Erysipelas	1	-	-	2
Paratyphoid	1	-	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

1955.

AREA.	Number of children who completed a full course of Immunisation in 1955.			Number of children receiving Refresher Doses
	Under 5	5 - 14	Total	
Penzance	195	23	218	420
St. Ives	85	2	87	79
St. Just Urban District	56	2	58	49
West Fenwith Rural District	208	51	259	437

APPENDIX B.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS 1955.

AREA.	Nos. on Reg. at 31:12:55:	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	TOTAL.
PENZANCE:										
Pul. M.	93	-	2	1 (1)	1	1	2 (1)	2	- (1)	9 (3)
Pul. F.	63	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	5 (-)
Non-Pul. M.	13	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2 (-)
Non-Pul. F.	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 (-)
ST. IVES:										
Pul. M.	40	-	-	-	-	-	1	- (1)	1	2 (1)
Pul. F.	30	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	4 (-)
Non-Pul. M.	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (1)
Non-Pul. F.	6	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)
ST. JUST:										
Pul. M.	30	-	1	-	-	-	2	2 (1)	1 (2)	6 (3)
Pul. F.	15	-	1	-	- (1)	-	-	-	-	1 (1)
Non-Pul. M.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Pul. F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST PENWITH:										
Pul. M.	50	-	1	-	1	1	2	2 (2)	- (1)	7 (3)
Pul. F.	52	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	4 (-)
Non-Pul. M.	15	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2 (-)
Non-Pul. F.	14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (-)
() = Deaths		Total Notifications		45		Total Deaths		12		

